

Town Hall  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland



Board of Town Commissioners

Steve Sonnett, President  
Larissa Ferrer, Jim Storey

**THE TOWN HALL IS OPEN WEEKDAYS**

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Town Hall at:  
(office) 301-627-6905  
(fax) 301-627-2080

(e-mail) [info@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:info@uppermarlboromd.gov)  
(cable channel) Verizon 19  
OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:  
[www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov)

Town of Upper Marlboro  
14211 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772



## Opportunity is Knocking!

Join our Town's Historical Committee for the  
Prince George's County

### Maryland Home & Garden Pilgrimage Tour

Saturday, April 26 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

We will retrace the British Army's march on Washington as it was in the summer of 1814, traveling the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail that connects the people, places and events that led to the birth of our National Anthem. The tour begins in Nottingham and ends up with a special tour of the Town of Upper Marlboro.

Call: 410-821-6933; Email: [mhgp@aol.com](mailto:mhgp@aol.com); Web: [mhgp.org](http://mhgp.org)



## Welcome to Landings . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



## The President's Annual Report

The Town's Charter requires an annual report by the President on...the condition of municipal affairs and make such recommendations as he deems proper for the public good and welfare of the town."

### Year in Review

Even though it seems that some projects take forever, the Town has actually accomplished a great deal in the past year to lay the groundwork for long-anticipated improvements.

Our Public Works Department has improved the appearance of our Town properties by painting the outside of Town Hall and the buildings at the Public Works Facility, where new metal roofs have also been added. Their extra effort in maintaining the downtown also shows. Maintenance on vehicles and equipment has greatly increased. Most of all, our crew is to be commended for their tireless efforts in clearing our streets during the numerous snow events this year. The one major infrastructure improvement this year was a repaving project for some of the streets in Marlborough Towne.

The Town entered into several new agreements too this past year. We entered into a state-wide public works mutual aid agreement that enables us to provide, and/or, receive aid

### Forward→March!

from other jurisdictions in the event of major disasters and emergencies. Being part of this mutual aid agreement makes FEMA aid reimbursements more attainable and timely.

The I-Net is a county run government intranet. Initially, the Town did not join in when offered to several years ago. The Board however, has now voted to join, as new membership is being offered.

After much discussion, the Board decided to change the employee healthcare coverage it offers employees, from a pure insurance model, to the Maryland Local Government Health Insurance Cooperative. The Cooperative was set up by our insurance company, the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT). So far, the Town and its employees have been pleased with the change.

The Fiscal Year 2013 Audit showed that the Town is in good financial condition and had operated with a surplus. However, it was not

ed that at times during the year, the Town failed to collateralize approximately up to 13% of its investments. The Board has since corrected the problem and now requires a report on collateralization within each monthly Treasurer's Report.

The Town received positive recognition several times during the past year. For the first time, the Town earned it's designation as a "Banner City" by the Maryland Municipal League. Also, the Town's "Day to Serve" Yard Sale last fall, for the benefit of the Marlboro Food Bank and the Fuller Foundation, received positive reports. And, the status of the Town was also greatly enhanced with the selection of our Town Clerk, M. David Williams, as Maryland's "Clerk of the Year".

Another bright spot for the Town is the great work our Historical Committee has been doing to promote and archive our Town's history. For the first time, the Town will be on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour, this year on April 26.



# Report 2014 FEBRUARY

Town Citations: 129 ❖ State Citations: 108

<u>In-Town Incidents:</u>	<u>Out-of-Town Incidents:</u>
1 Theft	2 Burglary
1 Fraud Report	17 Larceny
1 Recovered Tag	4 Stolen Vehicle
1 D.U.I. Arrest	2 Robbery
7 Vehicle Impound	2 Assault

All in-Town incidents were in the downtown area and not in the residential areas.

### Presidents Report, *continued*

The tour starts in Nottingham and ends up in our Town with a walking tour of historic homes and sites. For the upcoming Marlborough Day Festival on May 10, the Committee is hard at work to showcase the events of the summer of 1814, when the British moved through our town on its way to burn the nation's capital. I urge you to help out with this one-of-a-kind event. Contact the Town Hall and we will pass your name and contact information on to the Committee.

### The Upcoming Year(s)

This is an exciting time for the Town. I am confident that the Town's Sustainable Community application will be successful. The application sets forth plans and concepts to make the Town more livable, lower our environmental impact, increase economic activity while preserving and enhancing its historic village appeal. Being designated a Sustainable Community (SC) by the State, is a prerequisite to obtaining various grants and other aid essential in carrying out the Town's plans. As required, a defined SC work-group has been established representing the Town government, Town residents, County and the State Highway officials. Business and commercial property representatives have yet to be named. The approved SC application will be posted on our website in the near future. SC will be a standing agenda item for all Town Hall Meetings for the foreseeable future.

Starting in Fiscal Year 2015, the Commissioner's pay will rise from \$600 per year to \$1,200 each. The President's pay with rise to \$15,000 from \$3,600. The President's and Commissioner's pay has not been increased for over 30 years. The theory behind raising salaries is two-fold. Firstly, the time required to run operations effectively has increased, and secondly, the pool of citizens that might be interested in running for office would be increased. I plan not to run for re-election during the next election cycle in 2016, and hope that serious and qualified candidates come forth.

—Steve Sonnett/ President, Board of Town Commissioners



### **TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY(S)**

— **FRIDAYS** —

**March 14, March 28 & April 4 • 4:00–8 p.m.**

Fried Whiting, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread, Drink & Dessert. \$9 Adults, \$8 Seniors & \$5 Children (5-12 yrs)  
Call 301-627-2636, or visit: [trinityec@verizon.net](mailto:trinityec@verizon.net) for info.

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME:** Spring forward! Advance clocks one hour. Sunday, March 9th, 2 a.m.

**TOWN MEETING:** Tuesday, March 11th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Meeting is open to the public.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP:** March 13–16 at the Show Place Arena. Call: 301-952-7900, or visit: [www.caasports.com](http://www.caasports.com) for more info. Find special discount offers! at: [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS — PLANNING SESSION for MARLBOROUGH DAY & MONTHLY ARCHIVING SESSION:** Saturday, March 15th, 9:00–12:00 noon at the Town Hall. Visitors welcome and encouraged to bring items of historical significance to be scanned for the Town Archives—meeting is open to the public.

### The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee

### **The TUMHC needs you!**

We have big plans for this year's Marlborough Day Festival where we will commemorate the 200th year anniversary of "The War of 1812". As our Town played a major role in the creation of our national anthem, we are expecting large crowds and will be organizing several special presentations in partnership with other State & County 1812 bicentennial commissions.

**Contact the Town Clerk at 301-627-6905 to sign up!**

**COLONIAL TAVERN DINNER:** Saturday, March 15th, 7–9:00 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Enjoy colonial music, food & spirits. Reservations and payment required in advance (\$40 residents). Call: 301-952-8010.

**NATURE HIKE FOR SENIORS:** Tuesday, March 25, 10–11:00 a.m. Seniors aged 60 & better, come join a naturalist on a nature hike! Remember to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Reservations are required. Resident \$2. Watkins Nature Center 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772. Call: 301-218-6702 for more info.

**WORK SESSION:** To be scheduled at the March Town Meeting. This meeting is open to the public.

**NATURE PUPPET SHOW:** Friday, March 28, 2014 2-3:00 p.m. Bring your children to enjoy a nature-themed puppet show! Afterwards, they'll meet a live animal featured in the show. Reservations required. Resident: \$2 Ages 2-10. Watkins Nature Center 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20772. Call: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544.

**50th ANNIVERSARY of the FORD MUSTANG:** Saturday, March 29, 2:00 p.m. In 1964, Ford built the first Mustang and unveiled it at the New York World's Fair. Come join *The Mustang Club of Maryland* for a special presentation and a Mustang Rally at the Bowie Branch Library: 15210 Annapolis Rd, Bowie MD 20715. Call: 301-262-7000 for more info.

**TARTAN DAY TEA:** Saturday, April 5, 2014 2:00 p.m. Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland! Wear your favorite tartan to be entered into a themed door prize drawing. Capacity is limited; reservations & payment required in advance. Resident \$22; Ages 10 & up. Call: 301-952-8010 for more info.